

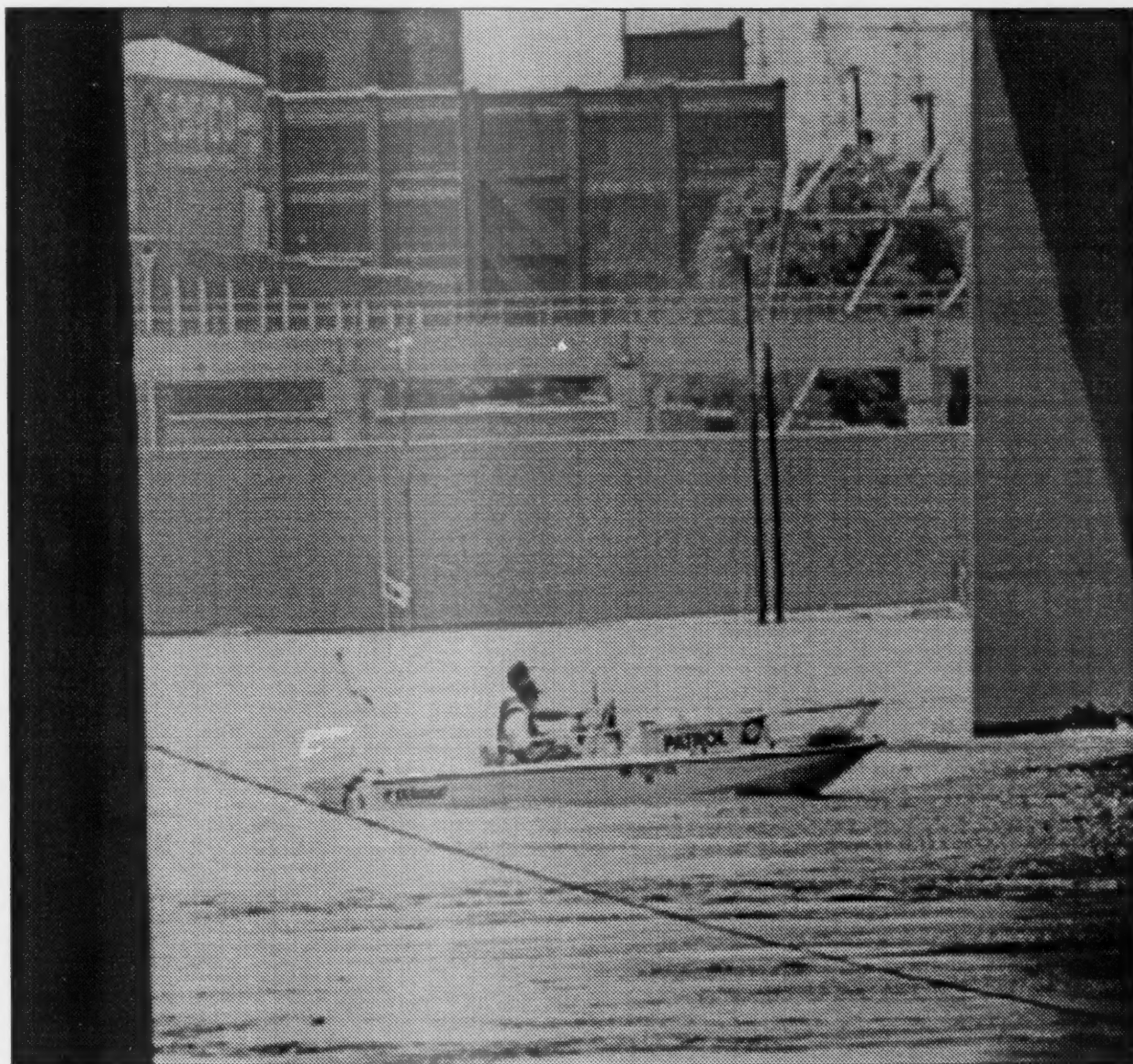


September 1993

River Currents

Serving The Guardians Of The Western Rivers

Volume 14 Issue 6



The Second District's Auxiliary

Going Strong On The Western Rivers

Pages 5 - 9

River Currents

DISTRICT COMMANDER

RADM Paul M. Blayney

CHIEF OF STAFF

CAPT Frank M. Chlischczyk, Jr.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

LT Christopher P. Otto

EDITOR

PA2 W. Scott Epperson

STAFF

PA2 Robert Raskiewicz

PA3 Frank A. Dunn

An authorized publication, RIVER CURRENTS is published under the provisions of COMDINST M5728.2 and the direction of the Second District Public Affairs Office. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Coast Guard. RIVER CURRENTS shall not be considered an authority for any official action and is non-record material.

RIVER CURRENTS is published monthly. News and feature articles are solicited from all Second District Coast Guard people. Address all correspondence to RIVER CURRENTS, Commander (dpa), Second Coast Guard District, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Mo., 63103. Phone No. (314) 539-2627.

On The Cover

Coast Guard Auxiliaries patrol under the Poplar Street Bridge helping regular Coast Guard personnel enforce a safety zone during one of the St. Louis VP Fair's air shows July 3-5.

On The Back

Members of Reserve Unit Leavenworth, Kansas transport their flood punts to their next assigned site on one of the specially designed trailers. Photo by PAC Tom Gillespie, Fifth District.



YN3 Jeff Smith (left), SK3 John Portlock, YN2 Stan Hyatt, CWO Denny Laughlan, SN Brian Mann, ENS Mark Gill, YNC Jesse Ogden, ETC Steve Thompson and Mr. Roland Steibel of the Second District softball team present their championship trophy to RADM Blayney Aug. 20, 1993.

The team, under the guidance of CWO Laughlan and YN2 Hyatt, finished the Wolf's Softball Haven summer league with an 18-4 record and the league championship. Photo by PA3 Frank Dunn.

Coast Guard On The Western Rivers

is now available for everyone. This informative insert out of the July 1993 Commandants Bulletin explains the missions and history of the Coast Guard on the rivers and the origin of the Second District. If you would like a copy, send your request to Western Rivers Magazine, Commander (dpa), Second Coast Guard District 1222 Spruce St., St. Louis Mo. 63103.

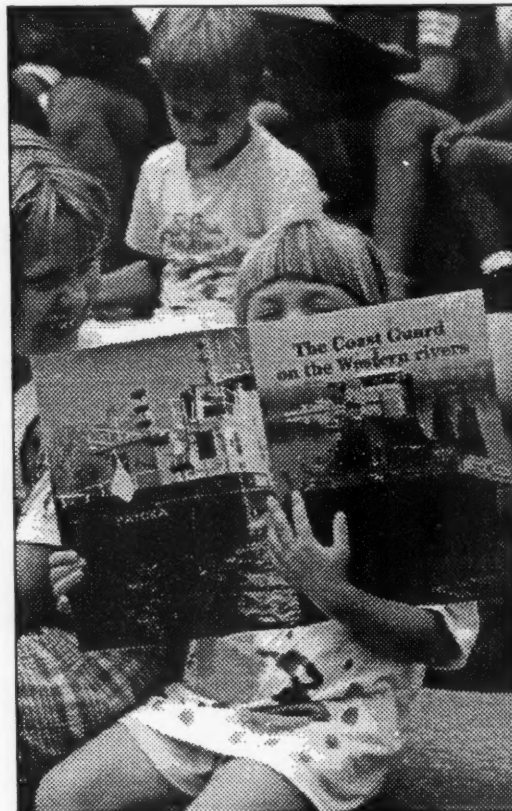


Photo by PA2 Rob Raskiewicz

RADM Blayney Takes Over As New D2 Commander

Story and photos by PA2 W. Scott Epperson

With a salute and a handshake RADM Paul M. Blayney took over almost 6,500 miles of western rivers and an operational area that covers 22 states.

Rear Admiral Norman T. Saunders relinquished command of the Second Coast Guard District to Blayney on July 17, in a formal ceremony held at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis.

The ceremony began with Ruffles and Flourishes, as family, friends and co-workers watched the official party enter and the color guard post the colors.

In his last role as District Commander, Saunders inspected the ranks, thanking some and saying farewell to others.

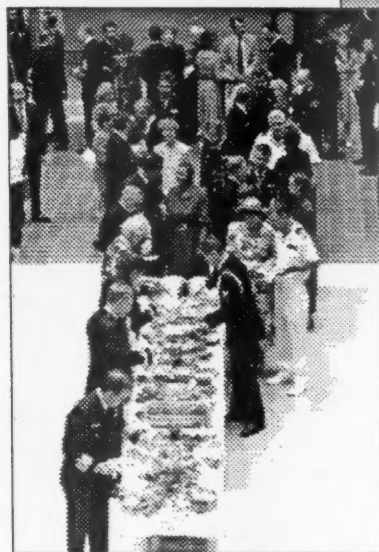
Vice Admiral Paul A. Well- ing, Commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, then



Above: RADM Blayney (right), RADM Saunders (middle) and VADM Welling salute during the National Anthem.



Left: RADM Saunders (left) shakes hands with RADM Blayney after turning over command to him.



Family, friends and co-workers joined together after the ceremony for a reception in the Record Center's atrium.

praised Saunders and the Second District for setting standards to be followed by the rest of the Coast Guard, and presented him with the Legion of Merit medal for his service.

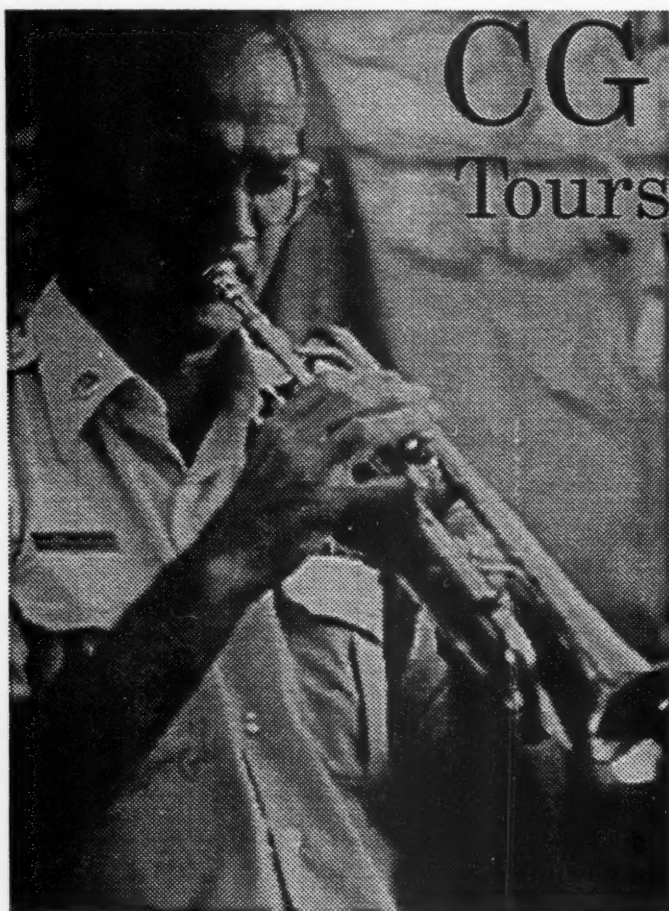
After words of thanks to the women and men of the Second District, an emotional Saunders ordered his flag ceremoniously struck and passed his command on to Blayney.

Blayney served as Chief of Operations for the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area Command at Governors Island, New York, before taking over as District Commander.

He inherited responsibility for both commercial and recreational navigation on one of the largest inland river systems in the world.

During a speech focused on public service, Blayney talked of anticipated challenges for the next few years, and confirmed his support to the Coast Guard's customers.

"My title is Commander; my role is steward," Blayney said, "I can say that when I act, it will be as a Coast Guard public servant... because that is who I am."



MU1 James E. Thomson warms up before the band's concert in Peoria, Ill. Photo by PA2 W. Scott Epperson.

CG Band Tours 2nd District

Story by PA2 W. Scott Epperson

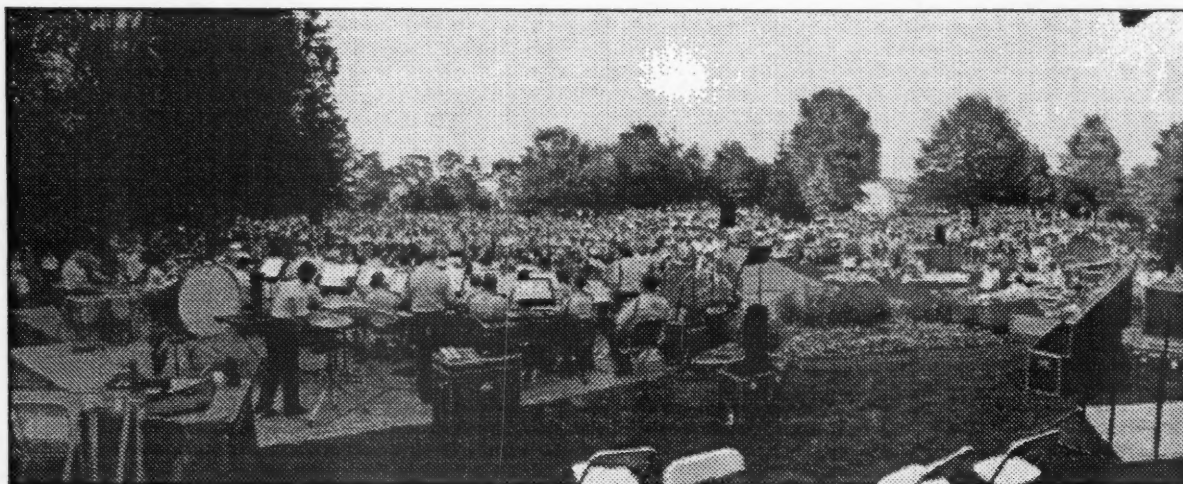
In the bright-orange glare of a hot summer's evening a sound rises up over the river front. Not a sound normally associated with the river, but an echo, drawing boats and onlookers from every direction. As the sound grows, the singular tone breaks and one resonance becomes a variety of instruments, each distinctly different, yet all sounding as one.

As the curious approach they notice a band, but this isn't just any band, it is a military band, the Coast Guard Band.

The United States Coast Guard Band of New London, Conn., toured the Second District through August playing, in parks, amphitheaters, concert halls, river fronts and at Lincoln's historic home.

The band, under the direction of CDR Lewis J. Buckley, started the Midwest leg of their summer '93 tour in Liberty Park, Peoria, Ill. playing a variety of music styles from marches by John Philip Sousa, to a compilation of tunes from *Beauty and the Beast*.

Other stops on the tour included Springfield, Ill., St. Louis, Columbia, Mo., Topeka, Kan., Glenwood, Iowa and Omaha, Neb.



Most of the Coast Guard Band's concerts were in outdoor parks and amphitheaters such as Shelter Insurance Gardens in Columbia, Mo. Photo by PA2 W. Scott Epperson

Vocalist YN1 Yvonne Daniel dazzled the audience with her vocal talents. Also pictured are **LCDR Lewis J. Buckley (right)** and **MU1 Gregory S. Wirt.** Photo by PA2 Rob Raskiewicz



Each concert drew crowds of people from every age group.

The highlight of this year's tour was vocalist YN1 Yvonne Daniels, who entertained the audience with her performance of big band era tunes and swing music along with the band's crowd pleasing *Masters of Swing*.

At the end of each concert a compilation of all the service songs, set

to a swing beat, was played. During this time, Master Chief Musician Kenneth W. Megan asked any audience members who have served in the armed forces to stand at the playing of their service's song.

As service members past and present stood, audience members honored them with a loud round of applause.



MU1 Victor Johnson is the only bass trombone player in the band. Photo by PA2 W. Scott Epperson.



MUC Judy Buttery plays her bassoon during the band's concert in Keiner Plaza, downtown St. Louis. Photo by PA2 Rob Raskiewicz.

Clinton and Pena Visit Flood Ravaged Midwest

Story and photos By PA2 Rob Raskiewicz

During the early stages of the "Great Flood of '93" Davenport, Iowa and the rest of the Quad-Cities area was the focus of world-wide media attention.

During the Fourth of July weekend, President Clinton took a few moments to meet several members of MSD Davenport and thank the Second District for a job well done.

Right: with the president is MK1 Doug Olsen (left) and BM1 Randy Lee.

Earlier in the week, Secretary of Transportation Frederico Pena stopped in St. Louis and Davenport, Iowa, took overflights of flooded areas along the Mississippi River, met with river authorities and spoke with the media. In Moline, Ill., Pena stoped for a quick group shot before heading back to Washington, D.C.

Below: from the left are CAPT Robert Luchin, Chief of the Marine Safety Division, CDR Scott Cooper, Commanding Officer of MSO St. Louis, CDR Mike Schafersman, Supervisor, MSD Davenport, CAPT Frank Chliszczyk, Second District Chief of Staff, LT Steve O'Malley, LTJG Pete Yelle and LCDR Terrence Carter, Supervisor, MSD St. Paul.



Second District Auxiliary



Volunteers Support Coast Guard



The Coast Guard Auxiliary was created in 1939 by Congress as a non-military organization to assist the Coast Guard with four cornerstone missions.

Public education, courtesy vessel examination, fellowship and assisting the regular and reserve Coast Guard with their many missions has kept the Auxiliary busy for their 53-year existence.

OPERATIONS

Safety patrols, regatta patrols, search and rescue and Coast Guard support missions are part of the operations' cornerstone. Auxiliarists are trained in seamanship, communications and perform many administrative functions at some Coast Guard units. Auxiliary aircraft working with communications stations on the ground can provide an increased area of coverage for most Coast Guard operations.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

One of the missions of the Auxiliary is to promote boating safety on the waterways. The Auxiliary is noted for its public education courses which teach pleasure boaters safe boating principles, practices and the legal responsibilities of the operator.

VESSEL EXAMINATION

Courtesy examiner in one of the most important qualifications in the Auxiliary. The courtesy marine

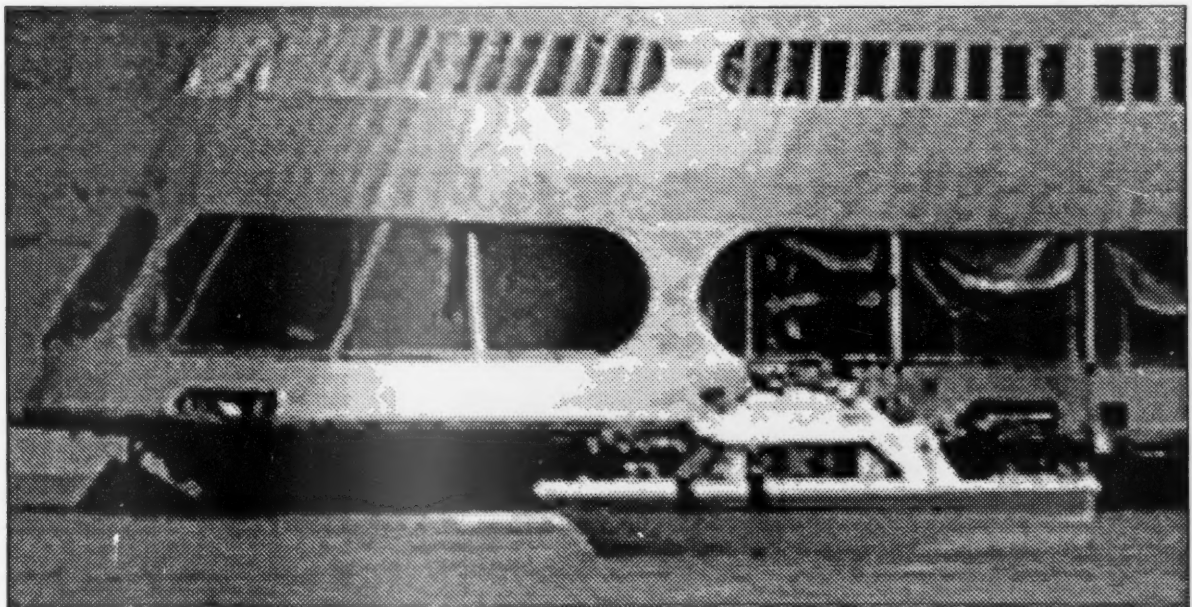
examination program serves to encourage boaters to carry safety equipment and meet higher safety standards than those required by state and federal boating regulations. It also provides, a one-on-one course in boating education.

FELLOWSHIP

One of the cornerstones in the foundation of the Coast Guard Auxiliary that its members are most proud of is the fellowship developed among Auxiliarists. The members of the Auxiliary get together when they are not out helping the Coast Guard, swap boating experiences, participate in cruises and enjoy sharing similar interests.

Auxiliary membership is open to women and men, 17 years of age or older, who are U.S. citizens and own at least 25 percent interest in a boat, aircraft or marine radio station. The ownership requirement may be waived if you have special qualifications that are valuable to the performance of Auxiliary programs.

For more information on the Auxiliary write to U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, 9449 Watson Industrial Park, St. Louis, MO, 63126-1575. Or call 1 800 368-5647.



The Auxiliary was instrumental in helping establish and enforce safety zones on the St. Louis river front during the Fourth of July VP Fair.



Coast Guard Auxiliaryists using their personal boats assist active Coast Guard personnel in safety patrols, and search and rescue.

Auxiliarists Tackle MSO Duties

by R. E. (Bud) Miller, DSO-PB, and Max Solomon II, DSO-CM

Someone once said, "Change is the only thing that remains constant." It's been like that in the Coast Guard Auxiliary ever since its inception way back in 1939. It's still happening today. One of the prime places where this change is occurring in the Second District Eastern Region, is in Pittsburgh. Auxiliarists in Divisions VII and IX are among the forerunners in implementing change within the Auxiliary.

Several trained Auxiliarists has become involved in a program in which they stand watches at Marine Safety Office Pittsburgh. Auxiliarist watchstanding is an ever expanding program. In the Eastern Region, it's reaching for the apex of volunteer commitment. Auxiliarists answer telephones, keep logs, operate radios, conduct harbor patrols, inspect barge fleeting areas, enter data on computers and provide support during pollution incidents.

The group in Pittsburgh has almost elevated the job of being Auxiliarist to professional levels. They have become so trained in the operations of the MSO that on the fifth weekend, during the months of the year that have five weekends, the Auxiliarists operate the MSO on their own. Keeping close contact with the duty officer by telephone, they carry out the routine duties normally associated with a Marine Safety Office.

So successfully have they performed their assigned duties that in the near future it's planned for them to

perform watchstanding duties at the CGC *Osage's* moorings. This will eventually include watches aboard *Osage*, once again increasing their value to the Coast Guard, the public and the Eastern Region Auxiliary.

What has this gained for the Coast Guard? It has demonstrated that with proper training, supervision and inspired leadership, the Auxiliary can provide valuable assistance to the Coast Guard beyond its traditional roles. In this day and age of reduced budgets and personnel limitations, here stands a highly motivated and anxious pool of volunteers, ready and willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever it can. This pool, taken in the whole, almost doubles the size of the Coast Guard. Although there are some missions where this group may not be of assistance, don't let that stifle your imagination. The Pittsburgh experience provides evidence that not only can the Auxiliary perform in its traditional missions, but it can also provide valuable assistance in non-traditional missions that just might become traditional.



A Coast Guard Auxiliaryist assists members of Base St. Louis by standing gate watch.

Answering Call For Support



A Coast Guard Auxiliarist stands a radio watch for active Coast Guard personnel.

The Auxiliarists of the Coast Guard Second Northern Region try filling in the gaps to help the Coast Guard provide its services to the people of the northern Midwest.

Because of the demands of active duty units in the Auxiliary's Second Northern Region, Auxiliarists are looked upon to not only provide their normal boating safety courses, regatta patrols and vessel courtesy examinations, but to also conduct aids-to-navigation patrols and assist with search and rescue.

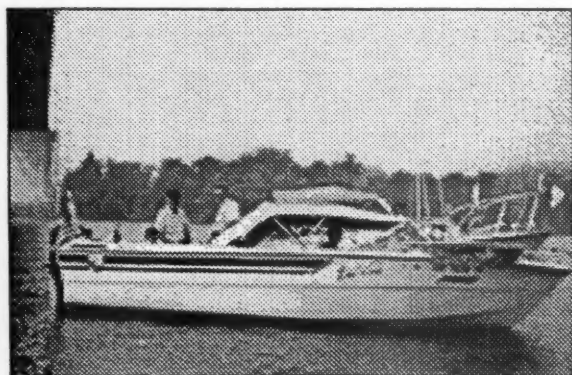
During the peak boating season they stand communication watches at Auxiliary stations in Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska.

The 850 members of the region

who operate in the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois estimate that 701 boaters were assisted, 21 lives and more than \$32,000,000 worth of property were saved by the Auxiliary last year.

This summer they were busy providing support activities in relation to the floods. The Auxiliarists stood around the clock radio watches, worked at Emergency Operation Centers, providing transportation for VIPs, assisted evacuation efforts, informed the public about river closures and no wake zones, filled sandbags and performed any other jobs they were called upon to do.

Spreading The Word Of Boating Safety



Coast Guard Auxiliary Boats assist in patrols on Second District waterways.

Members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary's Second Southern Region have been showing the colors while raising the public's awareness of boating safety from Opryland to Wal-Mart.

The 700 folks in one of the Auxiliary's smallest regions have

kept themselves busy working with boaters in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and Illinois.

During Safe Boating Week 1993, the members of the

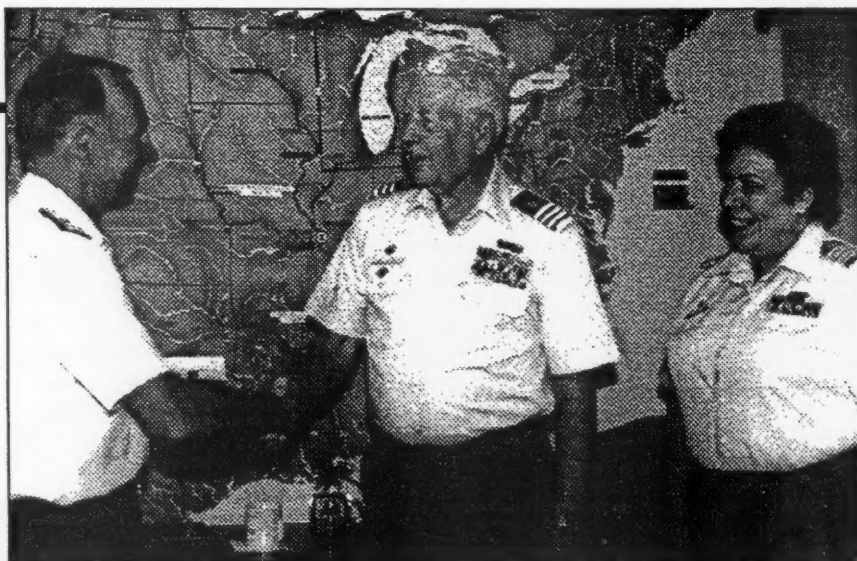
Second Southern Region, which is divided into six divisions and 31 flotillas, took part in television and radio spots, manned boating safety booths — 11 at Wal-Mart stores, made public appearances and were involved in several newspaper articles. During all of this they also performed more than 400 courtesy vessel examinations.

Second Southern Auxiliarists

from the Nashville area assisted the members of Marine Safety Detachment Nashville with a booth at Opryland in Tennessee during Opryland's Military Appreciation Week in July.

Along with assisting the active duty force, the Auxiliarists have also participated in several activities in support of the Coast Guard Reserves with training exercises, port security, pollution response and earthquake preparedness. They also have logged many hours patrolling marine events and regattas supporting the Coast Guard and state law enforcement agencies.

The men and women who volunteer their time and talents to assist the Coast Guard with its humanitarian efforts feel they have truly lived up to the Second Southern's motto "Small But Mighty".



Eugene Werner (Center) and Auxiliary Rear Commodore, Gloria Tobin present a \$100 check to D2 Commander RADM Blayney for the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Program. The money was raised by the Auxiliary Second Western Region's Past Captain's Association of which Werner is President.

Don't Stand at point B

If you have a group of Coast Guard Auxiliaries at point "A", and a problem that needs attention at point "C", don't stand at point "B". The odds are pretty good you'll get run over: or, more than likely, be invited to join up and pitch in.

Due to a myriad of factors, much of the Midwest has had a lot of problems needing attention recently, in the guise of the most expansive devastating floods in recorded history.

There is just very little that can be done to control or alter the course of the major flood, much the same as the power released by a hurricane or earthquake. About the best one can do is to try to cope with the least possible sacrifice, with the tools at hand.

The Coast Guard, fortunately, has a group of dedicated and skilled volunteers in their "tool box", known as the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Traditionally the Auxiliary has assisted the Coast Guard in its mission by performing three major functions, all of which address recreational boating safety: the public

education programs, courtesy vessel examinations, and surface operations including safety and regatta patrols and search and rescue.

But these are not traditional times and just as the "typical" Auxiliaries has evolved over the years, so too has the role of the Auxiliary.

The training and opportunities for volunteer participation have expanded, and the Great Flood of '93 is providing an excellent ground to test the mettle of today's membership and add new chapters to an extraordinary anthology.

Some of these efforts made by the Second Western Region are public affairs, environmental protection, civil engineering, and communications.

In the public affairs realm, the Auxiliary initiated a plan called "Maximum Compliance", traveling by land to the flooded areas, distributing information and identifying waterway closures to the people there.

In the environmental area, the Auxiliary provided vessels for EPA

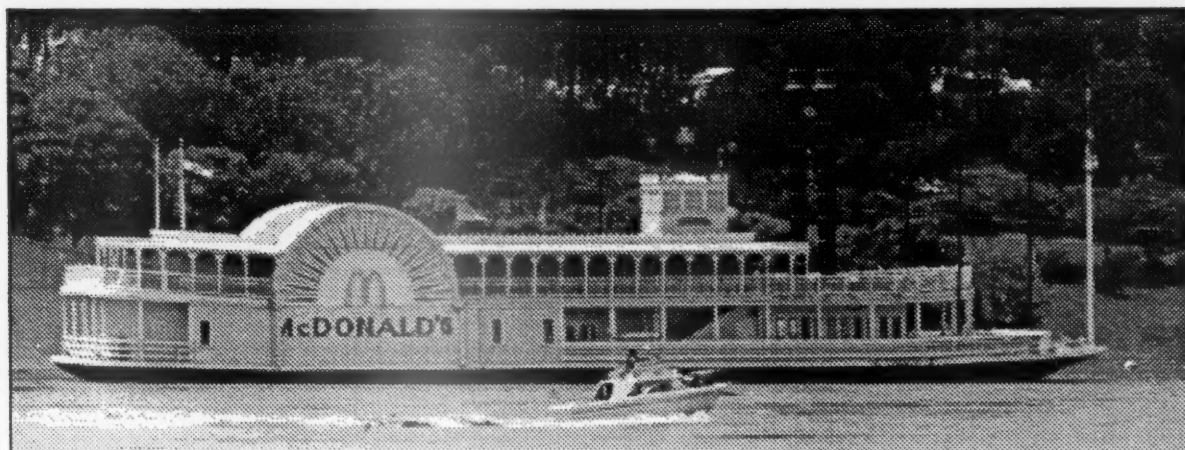
technicians to use as a platform for gathering water samples at various locations along the rivers.

Auxiliary vessels were used to support the Corps of Engineers in documenting flood damage to the levee systems.

Ever since the early days of the Coast Guard, effective communications capabilities have been paramount. When the ravages of nature indiscriminately disabled portions of the Second District's communication network, Auxiliaries traveled to remote antenna sites and quickly reestablished 24 hour communications.

There is a bittersweet ending to this catastrophic temper tantrum by the Western River System. While the gradual decline of flood waters are a prayer answered, this miracle will not be without a healthy price tag. The recovery, cleanup, rebuilding and return to normalcy will require many years, and a lot of hard work.

SO, don't stand at point "B".



Coast Guard Auxiliaries Patrolling on the St. Louis Riverfront During the VP Fair.



Here we go again, lets find some water

Look for our full-color Flood of '93 special edition River Currents with pictures and stories from all over the flooded Midwest. Coming soon to a flood zone near you.

Public Affairs Office
Second Coast Guard District
1222 Spruce St.
St. Louis Mo.63103

Dist. No. 10, 00001

University Microfilms Inc.
Serials Acquisitions
300 N. Zeeb Rd.
P.O. Box 1346
Ann Arbor Mich 48106

